

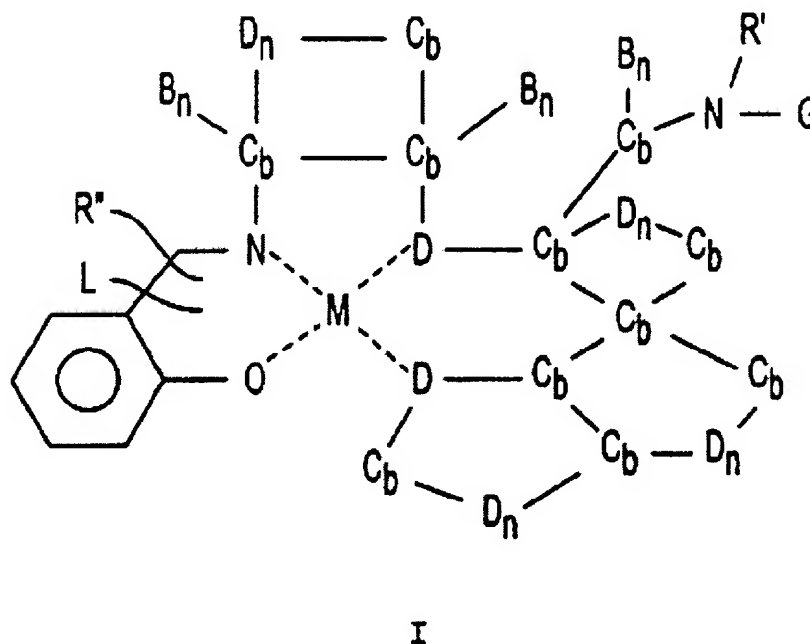
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 - 26. (Cancelled)

27. (New) A labeled nickel complex compound having formula I:



wherein:

B independently represents doubly bonded oxygen;

C represents carbon;

D independently represents nitrogen or oxygen;

L is a detectable label, optionally attached to a linker;

M represents a nickel ion;

b is from 0 to 6;

n is 0 to 1;

R' represents hydrogen, alkyl, aryl or a peptide chain;

R'' is R, R' or G;

G represents OH, an amide or a DNA delivery agent; and

R represents a nitrogen-containing cationic group, optionally attached to a linker.

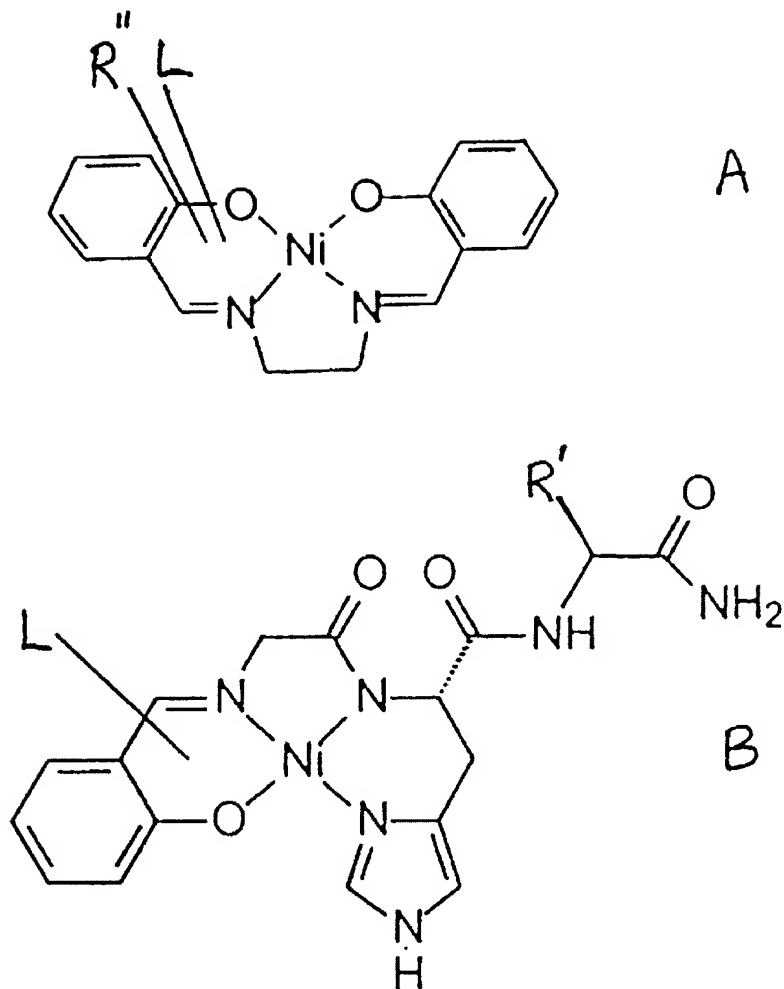
28. (New) The labeled nickel complex compound of claim 27, wherein said DNA delivery agent comprises intercalators, oligonucleotides, proteins or polyamines.

29. (New) The labeled nickel complex compound of claim 27, wherein the label is a radioactive compound, a protein ligand, a fluorescent or an enzyme.

30. (New) The labeled nickel complex compound of claim 27, which is labeled with biotin.

31. (New) The labeled nickel complex compound of claim 27, wherein R' is a peptide chain.

32. (New) A labeled nickel complex compound, having formula A or B:



wherein:

R' represents hydrogen, alkyl, aryl or a peptide chain;

R'' represents R, R' or G;

G represents -OH, -OR, an amide or a DNA delivery agent; and

R represents a nitrogen-containing cationic group optionally attached to a linker.

33. (New) The labeled nickel complex compound of claim 32, wherein the label is a radioactive compound, a protein ligand, a fluorescent compound, or an enzyme.

34. (New) The labeled nickel complex compound of claim 32, which is labeled with biotin.

35. (New) A labeled nickel complex compound, which is Ni-salen-biotin complex.

36. (New) A labeled nickel complex compound, which is (Ni(salen-Lys(biotin) His Arg complex.

37. (New) A method for detecting a non-canonical nucleic acid sequence comprising binding the labeled nickel complex compound of claim 27, to a sample of nucleic acid, and detecting a signal of the detectable label on the labeled nickel complex compound.

38. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the detectable label is a radioactive compound, a protein ligand, a fluorescent compound, or an enzyme.

39. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the detectable label is biotin.

40. (New) A method for detecting a non-canonical nucleic acid sequence comprising binding the labeled nickel complex compound of claim 32, to a sample of nucleic acid, and detecting a signal of the detectable label on the labeled nickel complex compound.

41. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the detectable label is a radioactive compound, a protein ligand, a fluorescent compound, or an enzyme.
42. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the detectable label is biotin.
43. (New) A labeled hybrid compound comprising the labeled nickel complex compound of claim 27, complexed with a protein or oligonucleotide.
44. (New) The labeled hybrid compound of claim 43, wherein the labeled nickel complex compound is labeled with a radioactive compound, a protein ligand, a fluorescent compound or an enzyme.
45. (New) The labeled hybrid compound of claim 44, wherein a penultimate amino acid from the N-terminus of the protein is histidine.
46. (New) The labeled hybrid compound of claim 43, which is labeled with biotin.
47. (New) The labeled hybrid compound of claim 43, which is labeled with a green fluorescent protein or epitope.

48. (New) A labeled hybrid compound comprising the labeled nickel complex compound of claim 32, complexed with a protein or oligonucleotide.

49. (New) The labeled hybrid compound of claim 48, wherein the labeled nickel complex compound is labeled with a radioactive compound, a protein ligand, a fluorescent compound or an enzyme.

50. (New) The labeled hybrid compound of claim 49, wherein a penultimate amino acid from the N-terminus of the protein is histidine.

51. (New) The labeled hybrid compound of claim 48, which is labeled with biotin.

52. (New) The labeled hybrid compound of claim 48, which is labeled with a green fluorescent protein or epitope.

53. (New) A method for detecting or measuring protein-nucleic acid interaction comprising mixing the labeled hybrid compound of claim 43, with a solution of nucleic acid, and assaying for the signal from a detectable label attached to the nucleic acid.

54. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein said label is a radioactive compound, a protein ligand, a fluorescent compound, or an enzyme.

55. (New) A method for purifying a nucleic acid-nickel-complex adduct, comprising:

- a) mixing the labeled nickel complex compound of claim 27, with a solution of DNA,
- b) subjecting the mixture of step a) to a separation medium, wherein the medium contains a material that specifically binds to the label, and
- c) separating the bound medium from the solution mixture, wherein the adduct is bound to the material of the separation medium.

56. (New) The method of claim 55, wherein said separation medium is affinity chromatogram.

57. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein said label is biotin, and the material in the separation medium binds to biotin.

58. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the material binding to biotin is avidin.

59. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the material binding to biotin is streptavidin.

60. (New) A method for purifying a nucleic acid-nickel-complex adduct, comprising:

- a) mixing the labeled nickel complex compound of claim 32, with a solution of DNA,
- b) subjecting the mixture to a separation medium, wherein the medium contains a material that specifically binds to the label, and
- c) separating the bound medium from the solution mixture, wherein the adduct is bound to the material of the separation medium.

61. (New) The method of claim 60, wherein said separation medium is affinity chromatogram.

62. (New) The method of claim 61, wherein the label is biotin, and the material in the separation medium binds to biotin.

63. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the material binding to biotin is avidin.

64. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the material binding to biotin is streptavidin.

65. (New) A method for detecting or measuring protein-nucleic acid interaction comprising mixing the labeled hybrid compound of claim 43, with a solution

of nucleic acid, and assaying for the signal from a detectable label attached to the nucleic acid.

66. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein said label is a radioactive compound, a protein ligand, a fluorescent compound, or an enzyme.